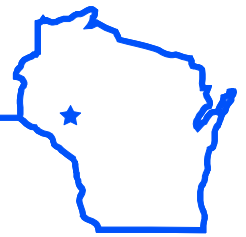




MENOMONIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Eric M. Atkinson, Police Chief



Contact:

Brenna Long, Crime Prevention Specialist
715-231-8504
longb@menomonie-wi.gov

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Menomonie Police Department to host *Coffee with a Cop* on March 10 **Program offers opportunity to meet local officers, discuss community issues**

Menomonie—On Thursday, March 10, officers from the Menomonie Police Department (MPD) and community members will come together in an informal, neutral venue to discuss community issues and build relationships- all over a cup of coffee.

All community members are invited to attend this event, which will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on March 10 at Caribou Coffee, located at 2321 Hwy 25 N, Menomonie.

The majority of contacts law enforcement has with the public occur during emergencies, conflicts or emotional situations. Those situations are not always conducive for relationship-building with the community, and some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street. *Coffee with a Cop* breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction. *Coffee with a Cop* provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work in Menomonie's neighborhoods.

Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by The United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the country, as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve. The Menomonie Police Department has held three events since September 2015.

"The MPD cordially invites you to come meet our officers at Caribou Coffee. We look forward to discussing current events, answering your questions, addressing community concerns or just stopping by to say hello," said Police Chief Eric Atkinson.

The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members one cup of coffee at a time.